

I wish for you to reject the NAB's petition 04-160. The first amendment of the constitution protects free speech. XM's broadcasting of local weather and traffic information should be covered under first amendment rights. There is nothing offensive about such information. There is no reason why the information pathways for such information should be restricted. The NAB is just trying to get the FCC to protect their quasi-monopoly of the airwaves. They have done an abominable job of providing content and it is about time that they learned what true competition is about. On "free" radio today, one is likely to only hear one of about 5 formats and they play the same music over and over and over again. The FCC should be the representative of the people who listen to the radio, not those who profit handsomely from their stranglehold on local broadcasting rights.

Satellite radio furnishes a nourishing breath of fresh air into this stale environment. The choice, quality, variety, and diversity of music and talk far surpasses that of commercial radio. The FCC should be encouraging new entities like this, not restricting them.

I can get traffic and weather information from TV, the newspaper, the Internet, my cell phone, my Blackberry, and radio. Some of these sources are local and some are not. It would be extremely illogical to restrict satellite radio from providing the same information that is available from many other sources.

One last point. The FCC should be dealing with more substantive issues. There are many other items that need the FCC's attention. Reject this self-serving proposal and get on with the real work.